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BETTER WAY TO LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic leadership in Congress continues to push a flawed, massive government takeover of health care that is going to cost more than \$1 trillion. What's more, their health care overhaul will drive up health care costs for families and small business, and it will disrupt the doctor-patient relationship. States already straining under runaway budgets will be forced to cut services or to raise taxes when they're forced to raise Medicaid eligibility.

As a doctor, I saw the problems with our current health care system, and I saw the amazing innovation which makes the U.S. the envy of the world. Let's build on what works. We can achieve commonsense solutions in a bipartisan way, but the Pelosi health care bill focuses on where we disagree.

House Republicans put forward a commonsense plan to revitalize the American health care system—to lower costs for families and businesses and to improve quality. Our plan puts patients first, and it puts doctors and patients back in control of decision-making. Our plan makes health care more affordable and more accessible, with patients being able to see the doctors of their choice.

We can do better. Adopt the Republican plan.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, of course there is no Republican plan for health care. I rise today to discuss the unconscionable economic cost of doing nothing, which is their plan.

Without health insurance reform, small businesses will pay \$2.4 trillion in health care over the next decade and up to \$800 billion in additional costs to them. Without reform, health care costs will rise from 18 percent of GDP today to a staggering 34 percent by 2040. Without reform, government spending on Medicare and Medicaid will nearly triple from 6 percent of our GDP to 15 percent of our GDP by 2040. Without reform, Federal, State, and local governments paid \$42.9 billion in 2008 to reimburse the costs of uninsured visits to emergency rooms, placing a tax burden of \$627 a year on every family in America, and that, without reform, will triple by 2030. Without reform, Mr. Speaker, the average employer-sponsored health insurance family deductible grew almost 50 percent from 1999 to 2006.

These are unconscionable cost increases, and we cannot sustain them. We need reform now.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. CAMPBELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, one of the more Orwellian aspects of the Pelosi health care bill is that, amongst its 1,990 pages, it uses the word "shall" 3,425 times. That is 3,425 times that this bill compels somebody somewhere to do or to not do something, and that doesn't even include several hundred mentions of the word "must" or "require."

Yet, with all of those compulsions in there which are telling Americans what to do, there is an interesting use of the word "may," and that's relative to Members of Congress—to us. We may be a part of the government option, not must, not require, not shall, but we may participate in the public option—in the so-called public option—or in the government-run health care plan.

It is another case where this Democratic Congress is saying, Do what I say, not what I do.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SCHOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, last night, I hosted a town hall back in my district with over 1,000 of my constituents in attendance. I felt that was a better use of my time than was rushing back to this Chamber to vote on resolutions honoring dogs.

The final question of the night last night came from a 9-year-old constituent in my district named Joshua who asked me a very simple question: Do you support what President Obama wants to do with health care?

I told Joshua that I spent the first 9 months of my term in office trying to figure out exactly what it is the President wants to do on the issue of health care.

It is precisely this confusion of goals, of conflicting messages and this lack of communication from the majority which has all Americans still trying to figure out what exactly the President wants versus the Speaker of the House's bill before Congress.

We need to do this right. It's too important to get it wrong, and Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and the American people deserve to be in the room.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, we've been advised that the House of Representatives may have only 3 hours of debate on this 1,990-page bill plus, perhaps, another 1,000-page manager's amendment. That comes out to \$500

billion an hour which will be spent of the public funds.

We should be debating this bill for weeks and months so that the American people know exactly what's in it and so that Members of Congress can be very exact in explaining it to our constituents and so that we can learn how deep and broad this bill is. In fact, there is even a provision which provides for reimbursement to veterinarians. Perhaps it's a mistake in the bill, but that's why we have to read it thoroughly.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MCCARTHY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, when I listened to thousands of my constituents on tele-town halls this past summer and held town halls with 5,000 constituents in August, the overwhelming and consistent message they told me was to find real solutions.

My constituents told me we need to improve health care, but H.R. 3200 is bureaucracy; it's deficit spending; it's taxes; it's intrusion into the personal health care decisions between our doctors and ourselves moved in the wrong direction.

I don't think any one of my constituents told me that Congress needs to double down on H.R. 3200, but that's what the new 1,990-page Pelosi health care bill is. It is version 2.0 in the government's taking over of the health care of Americans. It creates government bureaucracies that make health care decisions for us. It costs over \$1 trillion, and it uses Medicare cuts on seniors and new taxes on Americans and small businesses to pay for them.

We want solutions that will give us the ability to purchase health insurance across State lines. We want solutions that will help people who can't get insurance because of preexisting conditions. We want solutions that don't use Medicare to pay for non-Medicare spending, and we want solutions that will control health care costs.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. CAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat bill we may be voting on later this week is not the prescription for what's ailing this country.

The CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, confirmed the Democrats' bill spends well over \$1 trillion, far more than even the President asked for. Nearly half of the people who get coverage in the bill will get it through Medicaid. This isn't health care reform. It's welfare expansion. It's the expansion of a program that is already financially unsustainable and that is crushing State budgets.

The Democrats' bill includes more than \$700 billion in tax increases, many